



Patent
Attorney Docket No. 1032326-000161

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of) MAIL STOP AF
Jean-Sebastien Coron et al.) Group Art Unit: 2131
Application No.: 09/913,884) Examiner: Matthew T Henning
Filed: March 8, 2002) Confirmation No.: 5848
For: METHOD FOR COUNTERMEASURE)
IN AN ELECTRONIC COMPONENT)
USING A SECRET KEY ALGORITHM)
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)

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated June 15, 2006, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims.

Claims 27 and 34 were rejected under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112. The Office Action states that, since the DES algorithm comprises 16 rounds, a combination of only the first three rounds the last three rounds is not a plurality of successive rounds. It is respectfully submitted that this statement of rejection is based upon a misreading of the claims.

Claim 24 recites that, for a plurality of successive rounds of the algorithm, at least one of the first and second permutations of data is carried out in the manner recited in the last four steps of the claim. Dependent claim 27 recites that these plurality of successive rounds comprise only the first three and last three rounds of the algorithm. In other words, claim 27 recites that the procedure set forth in the last four steps of claim 24 is only carried out during the first three rounds (T1-T3) and the last three rounds (T14-T16) of the DES algorithm. The first three rounds (T1-T3) constitute, by themselves, a plurality of successive rounds of the algorithm. Similarly, the last three rounds (T14-T16) also constitute a plurality